

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	White Rock Oil and Gas LLC. Flat Hose Project
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	2023
<b>Proponent:</b>	White Rock Oil and Gas LLC.
<b>Location:</b>	T25N-R53E-Sec 16 & T25N-R54E-Sec 16
<b>County:</b>	Richland County

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

White Rock Oil and Gas, LLC (Henceforth referred to as proponent) has requested to temporarily place a 12 inch lay flat hose and a temporary water storage tank upon state owned trust land. This pipeline would be used to provide temporary water for a nearby proposed oil well refracs and completions. The anticipated length of temporary pipeline on the tract is approximately 2 Miles. The proposed storage tank would be located on an existing oil pad location. The expected duration of use of this license should be less than 12 months. The proposed license would be written for a term of one and a half years to allow for potential scheduling conflicts.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

The proponent has filed a DS-401 Land Use License application with the DNRC Eastern Land Office. A field inspection of the requested site was conducted by ELO staff in April of 2023.

#### 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Issue a Land Use License to the proponent for a temporary water line and storage tank.  
Alternative B- No Action

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

#### 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

Alternative A- Soils on the site are not excessively fragile, compactable or unstable. No direct soil disturbance is proposed by this project. The proposed lay flat hose pipeline would be installed above ground upon the surface.  
Alternative B- No Impact

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**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

Alternative A- No significant impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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**6. AIR QUALITY:**

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

Alternative A- Minimal impacts expected. Increased pollutants from pump operations should only be minor and temporary.

Alternative B- No Impact

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**7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:**

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

Alternative A- No significant impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:**

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

Alternative A-. Impacts to wildlife should be minimal considering the temporary nature of the project. Species which may have habitat in the area of the project may include but are not limited to deer, antelope, rodents, coyotes, foxes, amphibians, reptiles, fish, raptors, migratory and prairie birds. Upon project completion habitats and wildlife utilization should return to normal levels.

Alternative B- No Impact

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**9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

Alternative A- A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database shows no four species of concern within the general project area.

Baird's Sparrow - *Centronyx bairdii*  
Chestnut-collared Longspur - *Calcarius ornatus*  
Sharp-tailed Grouse - *Tympanuchus phasianellus*  
Sprague's Pipit - *Anthus spragueii*

While these species may be present in the general area of this proposed license, impacts should be limited due to the small scope and temporary nature of the project. This proposed project is not located within Greater Sage Grouse Core, Connectivity or General Habitat.

Alternative B- No Impact

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

Alternative A- A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search results revealed that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE, but it should be noted that Class III level inventory work has not been conducted there to date.

Considering the low-impact nature of the proposed project, authorization will have *No Effect to Antiquities*. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

Alternative A- A slight and temporary change to the aesthetics could be expected, due to temporary use for above ground temporary storage tank and pipeline. This use would be temporary with no lasting impact after the project is completed.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

Alternative A- No significant impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

None

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<b>IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i></li><li>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i></li><li>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i></li></ul>

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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

Alternative A- There may be potential health and safety risks associated with this project. These risks are accepted by trained employees as occupational risks. These risks can be mitigated with proper training and on-site safety protocols.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

Alternative A- This project should have a positive impact to the industrial, commercial, activities and production in the area. Impact to agricultural activities and production should be neutral.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

Alternative A- This project has the potential to create jobs with further development possibilities. The number of jobs created is unknown at this time.

Alternative B- No Impact

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**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

Alternative A- This project has the potential to increase local tax revenues the amount of which is unknown at this time.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

Alternative A- No impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

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**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

Alternative A- The requested lay flat hose and storage tank are temporary and should not have a long term effect on recreational and wilderness activities. The proposed lay flat hose is designed in such a way to not impede foot or vehicular travel. Vehicular crossing is allowed by use of ramped flat segments of pipe to be installed where needed.

Alternative B- No Impact

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**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

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**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

Alternative A- This project has the ability to generate revenue for the trust through the purchase of a land use license. The price of this LUL will be set at \$6780.00. The proponent has offered \$.50 per foot for Lay Flat hose and \$1500.00 for placement of the temporary storage tank.

Alternative B- No Impact

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Aaron Kneeland	<b>Date:</b> 06-28-2023
	<b>Title:</b> Land Use Specialist	

## V. FINDING

### 25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

### 26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The proposed land use license for approximately 2 miles of temporary above ground lay flat water hose and temporary storage tank should not result in nor cause significant environmental impacts. The predicted environmental impacts should be adequately mitigated through the terms and conditions contained within the land use license. For these reasons an environmental assessment checklist is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action. The proposed land use license for the temporary above ground water pipeline and pump site would satisfy the trust fiduciary mandate.

### 27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

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EIS

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More Detailed EA

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No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Scott Aye
	<b>Title:</b> ELO Land Program Manager
<b>Signature:</b> 	
<b>Date:</b> 6-29-2023	